

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1           1. A method for determining whether a particular service is provided by  
2 a cellular service provider comprising:

3           listening for a page which includes a particular number plan area code  
4 ("NPA") in a first frequency block;

5           if said page is not heard in said first frequency block within a specified  
6 time period, listening for a page in a second frequency block which includes said  
7 particular NPA; and

8           determining that said service is provided in said frequency block in which  
9 said page is sensed.

1           2. The method as in claim 1 further comprising:

2           upon sensing said page in either said first or said second frequency band,  
3 listening for a negative page within a time period following sensing said page,  
4 said negative page indicating that said service is not supported in said frequency  
5 band in which it is sensed.

1           3. The method as in claim 1 further comprising:

2           wherein upon hearing a negative page in said first frequency block,  
3 switching to said second frequency block and listening for a page which includes  
4 said NPA.

4. The method as in claim 1 further comprising:  
upon determining that said service is supported, updating a system  
identification ("SID") table to include a SID value identifying said cellular service  
provider.

5. The method as in claim 1 wherein said NPA is not used as an area code in any cellular market.

6. The method as in claim 1 further comprising:  
transmitting a coverage determination packet requesting a page in said  
first frequency block.

7. The method as in claim 6 further comprising:  
upon receiving a page responsive to said coverage determination packet,  
determining whether said page is a negative page indicating that said particular  
service is not provided in said first frequency block.

8. The method as in claim 6 further comprising:  
upon receiving a page responsive to said coverage determination packet,  
listening for a negative page for a specified time period, said negative page  
indicating that said particular service is not provided in said first frequency  
block.

9. The method as in claim 8 further comprising:  
updating a system identification ("SID") table to include a SID value  
identifying said cellular service provider upon sensing said page and not sensing  
a negative page.

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1 10. A method for determining whether a service is provided in a cellular  
2 market comprising:  
3 transmitting a network beacon page request in a first frequency block; and  
4 listening for a network beacon page indicating that said service is  
5 provided.

1 11. The method as in claim 10 further comprising:  
2 determining that said service is provided upon hearing said network  
3 beacon page.

1 12. The method as in claim 10 further comprising:  
2 changing to a second frequency block if said network beacon page is not  
3 heard within a specified time period; and  
4 listening for said network beacon page in said second frequency block.

1 13. The method as in claim 10 wherein said network beacon page is  
2 identified by it's number plan area code ("NPA").

1 14. The method as in claim 10 further comprising:  
2 upon receiving a page following said network beacon page request,  
3 determining whether said page is a negative page indicating that said particular  
4 service is not provided in said first frequency block.

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1 15. The method as in claim 10 further comprising:  
2 upon receiving a page following said network beacon page request,  
3 listening for a negative page for a specified time period, said negative page

4 indicating that said particular service is not provided in said first frequency  
5 block.

1 16. The method as in claim 15 further comprising:  
2 transmitting a second network request beacon page in a second frequency  
3 block responsive to receiving a negative page in said first frequency block; and  
4 listening for a network beacon page indicating that said service is  
5 provided in said second frequency block.

1 17. The method as in claim 10 further comprising:  
2 updating a system identification ("SID") table to include a SID value  
3 identifying a cellular service provider in said market upon sensing said network  
4 beacon page.

1 18. An RF module comprising:  
2 a processor;  
3 a memory for storing instructions which, when executed by said  
4 processor, cause said processor to perform:  
5 transmitting a network beacon page request in a first frequency block; and  
6 listening for a network beacon page indicating that said service is  
7 provided.

1 19. The RF module as in claim 18 further including instructions which,  
2 when executed by said processor, cause said processor to additionally perform:  
3 determining that said service is provided upon hearing said network  
4 beacon page.

20. The RF module as in claim 18 further including instructions which, when executed by said processor, cause said processor to additionally perform: changing to a second frequency block if said network beacon page is not heard within a specified time period; and listening for said network beacon page in said second frequency block.

21. The RF module as in claim 18 wherein said network beacon page is identified by it's number plan area code ("NPA").

22. The RF module as in claim 18 further including instructions which, when executed by said processor, cause said processor to additionally perform: upon receiving a page following said network beacon page request, determining whether said page is a negative page indicating that said particular service is not provided in said first frequency block.

23. The RF module as in claim 18 further including instructions which, when executed by said processor, cause said processor to additionally perform: upon receiving a page following said network beacon page request, listening for a negative page for a specified time period, said negative page indicating that said particular service is not provided in said first frequency block.

24. The RF module as in claim 23 further including instructions which, when executed by said processor, cause said processor to additionally perform: transmitting a second network request beacon page in a second frequency block responsive to receiving a negative page in said first frequency block; and

5 listening for a network beacon page indicating that said service is  
6 provided in said second frequency block.

1           25. The RF module as in claim 10 further including instructions which,  
2   when executed by said processor, cause said processor to additionally perform:  
3           updating a system identification ("SID") table to include a SID value  
4   identifying a cellular service provider in said market upon sensing said network  
5   beacon page.

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